



**ACLU of Alaska
Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship
Academic Years: 2019-2022**



Joan Hamilton, Cup'ik (1942-2008)

**We must RECEIVE your complete application by 4:00 p.m. AKST on
Wednesday, March 1, 2023**

You may mail, fax, or email your complete application as a PDF to

**ACLU of Alaska
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 207
Anchorage, AK 99503
Fax: 907.263.2016
Email: scholarship@acluak.org**

Questions? Call the ACLU at 907.258.0044.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND ELIGIBILITY

- Up to \$2,500 per academic year – renewal awards available by reapplying
- Student in a post-high school educational or vocational program in any of the following academic years: 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2022-2023
- Studied or currently studying for a career related to the law (e.g, lawyer, paralegal, VSO, guardian ad litem)
- Alaska resident committed to improving the lives of rural or Alaska Native communities

ACLU of Alaska
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The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska, with the endorsement and full support of the family of Joan Hamilton, has established a scholarship program in her name. An impassioned proponent of Native culture and civil rights, Joan was one of the first Alaska Native people to serve on the ACLU board of directors.

A Cup'ik Eskimo, Joan was well known in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and throughout Alaska. Born Joan Bill in Qissunaq, near Chevak, on July 31, 1942, her Cup'ik name was "Pirciralria." Joan said she "grew up in a hospital" as a result of childhood tuberculosis. She learned English from medical staff, who enjoyed her spunk and inquisitiveness. Joan attended boarding school at St. Mary's Mission and Copper Valley School and earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles. She was equally comfortable speaking with Elders about traditional culture or negotiating with academic and government bureaucracies.

At a time when it was legal to discriminate against Alaska Natives, especially women, Joan became a licensed practical nurse, working at hospitals in Alaska and the Lower 48, as supervisor of the Northwest Free Clinic in Salt Lake City, program director of the Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention office of Rural CAP in Anchorage, administrator of the Tundra Women Coalition, chairman of the board for KYUK public broadcasting in Bethel, and the museum curator of the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center in Bethel.

It was during her time in Bethel that Joan became an active board member of the ACLU of Alaska. She was a tireless advocate for rural and Alaska Native rights, and was instrumental in ACLU recognition of Native rights advocates such as Willie Kassyulie and the Native Village of Nunapitchuk, Mike Williams, Sr., Natalie Landreth, and Eric Johnson.

By establishing this scholarship in her name, the ACLU of Alaska wishes to promote and support the education of Alaska students who wish to pursue a career related to the law, become advocates of Alaska Native rights, and defend the constitutional rights and civil liberties of the peoples of rural Alaska.

APPLICATION

Agreement to Scholarship Guidelines and Media Release

The Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a post-secondary school Alaska student who wishes to pursue a career related to the law in which s/he will advocate for Alaska Native rights, and defend the civil liberties of the peoples of rural Alaska. The scholarship is intended to pay for tuition, room and board, textbooks, and academic expenses in an educational or vocational program.

I agree to the rules of the ACLU of Alaska Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship. I affirm that the information enclosed in this Application is accurate and original to me, and I authorize the ACLU to reproduce, distribute, create derivative works of and publicly display my essays in all media now known or hereafter developed in connection with its mission, including for promotional purposes. If I receive a scholarship, I grant the ACLU the right to use my name, likeness, and biographical information in all media without any further compensation or permission.

Applicant’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

**For applicants under 18
Consent from a Parent or Legal Guardian is required**

I, _____, am the [**circle one:** parent / guardian] of the Applicant identified below. I have read this packet and understand its contents. I hereby consent to this Application for the Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship, and provision of the information requested.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION
(to be completed by applicant)

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Academic Year Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

	Name	City, State	Years	Degree	GPA
High School					
College					
Graduate					
Other					

How did you first learn about the ACLU Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship?

PERSONAL STATEMENT

On separate pages, please attach a personal statement that addresses the 4 questions below. To the extent it's possible, please include specific examples, and please state how the life and work of Joan Hamilton might relate to or inspire your goals.

We suggest that your personal statement should be between 2 to 4 pages, and if you type it, please write in double-spaced font no smaller than 12 point on pages with no less than 1" inch margins.

Learn more about Joan Hamilton at www.acluak.org/joan-hamilton-scholarship and read more about the ACLU of Alaska at www.acluak.org.



1. What do you consider important challenges facing Alaska Native communities and/or residents of rural Alaska?
2. What actions have you taken, and do you plan to take, to support Alaska Native communities and/or residents of rural Alaska?
3. How would a law related career enable you to address the challenges facing Alaska Native communities and/or residents of rural Alaska?
4. How do you envision your education allowing you to further the work of Joan Hamilton and of the ACLU of Alaska?

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Note to Applicant: Your reference should be someone who can address your academic and career achievements, goals, and potential. Please identify how your reference knows you. The review committee may weigh a reference's recommendation based on their ability to **objectively** assess your qualifications. A teacher, employer, or counselor might be more persuasive than a family member. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the ACLU office at scholarship@acluak.org or 907.258.0044.

Section I – To be completed by the applicant.

Name of applicant: _____

Name/Title of Reference: _____

How Reference knows you: _____

I [circle one: waive / do not waive] my right to access information on the recommendation form.

The ACLU does not require that you waive your right to review the recommendations in your file as a condition for award of a scholarship. You, however, may waive that right in the event that your reference requires you to. If you waive the right to access information on the recommendation form, please ensure that your recommender mails the recommendation in a sealed envelope to

Joan Hamilton Scholarship Committee
ACLU of Alaska
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 207
Anchorage, AK 99503

or emails it to scholarship@acluak.org. **The ACLU must receive the recommendation no later than 4:00 p.m. AKST on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.**

Section II – To be completed by applicant’s reference. *(If necessary, you may answer questions on separate pages.)*

1. In what capacity and how long have you known the applicant?

2. How has the applicant shown her commitment to addressing the needs of Alaska Native communities, and/or residents of rural Alaska? Please provide specific examples.

3. How has the applicant shown leadership and teamwork in her community, both through her advocacy and otherwise. Please provide specific examples.

4. How do you see the applicant continuing her commitment to addressing the needs of Alaska Native communities, and/or residents of rural Alaska in her career?

5. Additional comments:

Name: _____ Title/Position _____

School / Organization: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FINAL CHECKLIST
(to be completed by the applicant)

- Agreement to Scholarship Program Guidelines and Media Release**
 - Signed by the applicant

- Parent / Guardian Consent**
 - Completed and signed by parent or legal guardian for applicants under 18

- Personal Information**
 - Completed by the applicant

- Educational Information**
 - Completed by the applicant

- Personal Statement**
 - Completed by the applicant, addressing suggested issue areas.
 - Suggested length of 2–4 pages (double-spaced if typed, minimum 1” margins, minimum 12 pt font).

- Recommendation Form**
 - Section I completed by the applicant
 - Section II completed by the applicant’s reference
 - Sent to the ACLU by mail in a sealed envelope or by email if the right to access information on the recommendation form is waived

- Completed application to be RECEIVED by the ACLU of Alaska no later than 4:00 p.m. AKST on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, by either:**
 - **Mail:** 1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 207, Anchorage, AK 99503
 - **Fax:** 907.263.2016
 - **Email:** scholarship@acluak.org (attached as a PDF)